

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claims 4, 6, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 2 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bisconte Sconte De Saint Julien. Claims 1, 4, 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Urakami. Claims 3, 5, 8-10 and 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 6 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as set forth in the outstanding Office Action and to included all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Abstract of the Disclosure

Applicant is submitting a substitute Abstract of the Disclosure for that originally filed with this application to more clearly describe the claimed invention. Entry of the substitute Abstract of the Disclosure is respectfully requested.

Drawings

It is noted that the Examiner has accepted the drawings as originally filed with this application.

Claim Amendments

By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 1, 2, 4, 11, and 13 and amended claims 3, 5-10 and 12 of this application. It is believed that the amended claims specifically set forth each element of Applicant's invention in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 3, 5-10 and 12 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to obviate the rejection(s) set forth in the outstanding Office Action. Applicant's amended claim 3 comprises a combination of original claims 1 and 3, thus redrafting claim 3 in independent form. Applicant's amended

claim 5 comprises a combination of original claims 1 and 5, thus redrafting claim 5 in independent form. Amended claims 6 and 7 each depend from amended claim 5. Applicant's amended claim 8 comprises a combination of original claims 1, 2 and 8, thus redrafting claim 8 in independent form. Applicant's amended claim 9 comprises a combination of original claims 1, 2 and 9, thus redrafting claim 9 in independent form. Applicant's amended claim 10 comprises a combination of original claims 1 and 10, thus redrafting claim 10 in independent form. Applicant's amended claim 12 comprises a combination of original claims 1 and 12, thus redrafting claim 12 in independent form. In the absence of any art cited against Applicant's original claims 3, 5, 8, 9, 10 and 12, it is not believed that any detailed discussion of the cited prior art references is necessary. Suffice to say that all of the claims remaining in this patent application contain subject matter against which no prior art citations have been made.

Summary

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, it is urged that Applicant's local attorney be contacted at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 6, 2005

By:



Bruce H. Troxell
Reg. No. 26,592

TROXELL LAW OFFICE PLLC
5205 Leesburg Pike, Suite 1404
Falls Church, Virginia 22041
Telephone: 703 575-2711
Telefax: 703 575-2707